



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2015

ROOM 29 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Christopher Jeffries (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 11:01 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that due to the late sitting yesterday he made the decision to reschedule the Departmental Briefing on Structured to Deliver Success & Assured Skills in the Forward Work Programme,
- The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee event for young people with Special Educational Needs will take place on Thursday 4 June 2015 in South Eastern Regional College, Bangor Campus.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 27 May were agreed.

11:03 am Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 27 May 2015.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Education Maintenance Allowance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to Include Youth for information.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Expert Panel for the Review of Youth Training.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Pilot Programmes for the new Youth Training System.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the retention rates and outcomes for Further Education Colleges.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from EOS NI inviting the Committee to visit a facility that it is delivering the Steps 2 Success Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a visit in the forward work programme in the Autumn.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding financial assistance for young people in training programmes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Savings Delivery Plans briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on People with a Disability in Employment: A Supplementary Briefing Paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the paper and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report.

- Correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules providing his 16th Report on the 2015-2015 Session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Employment and Learning's Investing Activity Report for May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Copy of correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding Defibrillator Registration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation to the Chairperson from Carnegie UK to a "Towards a Wellbeing Framework" Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to the Deputy Chairperson from Carnegie UK to a "Towards a Wellbeing Framework" Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's Inaugural Social Justice Lecture.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Department for Employment and Learning to the Northern Ireland VQ Learning and Employer of the Year Awards 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Positive Futures to an Older Carers Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to the Inauguration Ceremony of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 1 July 2015.

7. Departmental Briefing - Implementation of the Apprenticeship Strategy

11:04 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Yvonne Croskery, Director of Youth Policy and Strategy Division, Mr Philip Rodgers, Head of Apprenticeships and Economic Inactivity and Mr Clement Athanasiou, Head of Curriculum Development and Delivery Model Branch.

11:06 am Ms Anna Lo joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with a geographical breakdown of where the 150 higher level apprenticeships are located.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the names of the employers involved in the apprenticeship programme, the sectorial partnerships and the strategic advisory forum.

Agreed: The Members agreed to schedule a visit in the forward work programme to a school who deliver apprenticeships.

12:10 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.

12:11 pm Ms Claire Sugden left the meeting.

8. Briefing from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

12:11 pm The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Koulla Yiasouma, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and Mrs Mairead McCafferty, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

12:28 pm Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting.

12:40 pm The representatives left the meeting.

9. Any other business

None

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 10.00 am in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

12:41 pm The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Mr Robin Swann MLA
Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning**

17 June 2015